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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/533,780 | 02/06/2006 | Harald Georgesohn | 095309.56273US | 6077 |
| 23911 7590 06/06/2008 CROWELL & MORING LLP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP P.O. BOX 14300 WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300 | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | |
| WILLIAMS, MARK A | | | | |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 3673 | | | | |
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| 06/06/2008 | | PAPER | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/533,780

Applicant(s)

GEORGESOHN, HARALD

Examiner

MARK A. WILLIAMS

Art Unit

3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/7/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/88)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/4/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 10, lines 10-12, the phrase “and has at least onemounting opening” is not fully understood, and is indefinite. In particular, in "groove which can be pushed onto a retaining flange", it is not understood in the context of the claim language how a groove can be pushed onto a flange as claimed.

In claim 16, “a push-push mechanism” is not fully understood in the context of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pajakowski. A locking device for locking a filler neck compartment cover of a vehicle that can be moved into an open position and into a closed position, comprising a locking element (34, 54) for blocking the filler neck compartment cover 70 in the closed position; and inherently having a servo drive 54 for displacing the locking element (since it is an electronically driven plunger) from a release position into a blocking position, wherein the locking device is designed as a preassembled, modular unit which can be fastened in an edge region of a mounting opening 16 provided in a body part of the vehicle, serves to house the filler neck compartment 24, and has, as best understood, at least one retaining groove 31 which can be pushed onto a retaining flange 17 located in or on the mounting opening. The mounting opening has a marginal cutout. The retaining flange is formed on the marginal cutout. The retaining groove is provided on a housing of a filler neck compartment cover lifting arrangement 22. The filler neck compartment cover lifting arrangement has at least two retaining webs 28 arranged at a distance from one another, and wherein each of the retaining webs has a retaining groove near 32. An engagement opening 37 for a mating element on the filler neck compartment cover interacts with the locking element.

The filler neck compartment cover lifting arrangement comprises, as best understood, a push-push mechanism. The servo drive and the filler neck compartment cover lifting arrangement are each broadly considered to be designed as a modular unit. The servo drive and the filler neck compartment cover lifting arrangement are detachably connected to one another. When in the mounted state, the filler neck compartment engages into a free space between the retaining webs, and wherein the filler neck compartment can be fastened to the filler neck compartment cover lifting arrangement. The filler neck compartment can be fastened to at least one of the retaining webs and the body part.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARK A. WILLIAMS whose telephone number is (571)272-7064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Engle can be reached on (571) 272-6660. The fax

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Patricia L Engle/
Supervisory Patent Examiner,
Art Unit 3673

/Mark Williams/
6/5/08